

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Office of Legislative Counsel

14 DEC 1978

OLC 78-3106/b

Mr. Thomas K. Latimer, Staff Director  
Permanent Select Committee on  
Intelligence  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Tom:

In response to your oral query concerning deaths of  
CIARDS retirees, I have received the following information  
which I think bears on the subject and believe will be of  
interest to you: [redacted]

There is absolutely no foundation to the  
rumor that a very significant number of CIARDS  
retirees die within two years of their retirement  
dates. From the inception of CIARDS through  
October 1978 (a period of 14 years) there have been  
[redacted] retirements under CIARDS, and of this total  
[redacted] have died since they retired; thus, deaths in  
CIARDS have amounted to 4.5% of retirements. It  
is interesting to note that of the 39 employees  
retired from CIARDS in 1965, the first year that  
program was in effect, only one has died so far;  
that retiree lived 11 1/2 years after he retired  
and was age 75 when he died.

The two largest retirement years under CIARDS  
were 1973 and 1974 when a total of [redacted] employees  
retired. [redacted] or fewer  
than 3%, have subsequently died.

The allegation about early deaths and a high  
death rate among CIARDS retirees has been around  
for years. It possibly results from a mis-directed  
focus on the 4.5% deaths to the exclusion of the

MORI/CDF

95.5% of CIARDS retirees who are still alive. Another explanation could be the fall-out of a remark made during one of the Agency's retirement planning seminars to the effect that of a group of retired Navy chief petty officers with long service and no plans for retirement, most lived long enough to draw only eleven annuity checks. This remark was misinterpreted with the result that the story went around that CIA retirees lived long enough to draw only eleven retirement checks. It is possible that some further misinterpretation may have directed the observation only to CIA retirees.

I am also forwarding a summary of CIARDS retirements and deaths for each year since the inception of CIARDS.

25X1

Sincerely

25X1

Assistant Legislative Counsel

Enclosure

Distribution

Orig - adse  
1 - Director of Personnel  
1 - Special Asst. for Information  
1 - OLC Subject  
1 - OLC Chrono  
OLC:MMP:sf (12 Dec 78)

Approved For Release 2006/08/01 : CIA-RDP81M00980R001800030005-5

**Page Denied**

Approved For Release 2006/08/01 : CIA-RDP81M00980R001800030005-5